

Center for Health Equity Transformation

"The Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET), Lexington Kentucky, is located on the original homeland of diverse Native peoples who arrived over 10,000 years ago. The most recent among them were the Shawnee. Today, Kentucky is still home to over 25,000 Native people representing scores of tribal groups. CHET recognizes the injustices Native peoples have endured. Through this statement, we hope to begin the long process of healing."

Visit our Website

CHET's Weekly Communication Digest



2021 Juneteenth Message

According to the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), "On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas. He informed the enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. This momentous occasion has been celebrated as [Juneteenth](#) — a combination of June and 19 — for over 150 years."

Juneteenth marks a significant observance for African Americans, in that it signifies for many a date of true freedom from chattel slavery. The past year has been full of pain and reminders of the racism and inequities deeply rooted in the structure of this nation. Some have taken time to reflect and better understand the true work required to achieve a nation that lives up to its ideals. For those who have suffered the consequences of inequity and those committed to dismantling systemic oppression, this year's wider acknowledgement and observance of Juneteenth is a bright spot.

While we celebrate Juneteenth in the years to come, we cannot forget the long road ahead. We must remember that under the 13th Amendment, which Kentucky did not [ratify](#) until 1976, [slavery was not abolished](#) as a form of punishment for those convicted of a crime. The foundational racism of slavery still exists in the present system of mass incarceration.

I encourage us all to expand our understanding of the rich and sometimes troubled history of this nation. For more information on the history, significance, and observance of Juneteenth, visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/juneteenth>

Ariel Arthur
Manager
Center for Health Equity Transformation

Faculty Member Discusses Juneteenth in UKNow

"University of Kentucky Director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities and legal scholar Melynda Price, a native of Texas, explained the importance of the holiday to her and her family.

'Juneteenth means everything to me. I'm a fifth generation Texan. My great-great-grandmother was enslaved in southeast Texas in a small town called Eagle Lake, Texas, not too far from the Colorado River. And for my family, Juneteenth is Emancipation Day. It is the day when we all got together.'

You can watch the full video interview below and can access the UKNow article [here](#)



Lexington NAACP urges support for Juneteenth, Lexington has unique link

"The holiday is not just important for African-Americans to celebrate, but it is important for all of us to recognize this historic event in American history," said Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, chair of the Legal Redress/Criminal Justice Committee of the local chapter. "In order for us to move forward, we have to understand the root causes of some of the issues that we are still facing today. Recognizing the importance of Juneteenth is a solid step in that direction."

You can find a list of Lexington Juneteenth activities here:

<https://www.lexnaacp.net/post/juneteenth-activities-2021>

For more information on Lexington's unique connection to Juneteenth, visit:

<https://www.wtvq.com/2021/06/11/naacp-urges-support-for-juneteenth-lexington-has-unique-link/>

Louisville Juneteenth Event

IDEASxLab (Un)Known Project
Saturday June 19, 2021

12:00pm - Past, Present, Future including Poetry and Performances at Roots 101 (124 N 1st St)

12:30pm-1:30pm - A Journey In Our Footprints along the riverwalk

1:30pm - (Un)Known Project Site Dedication and Public Art Unveiling overlooking the river [Search "On the Banks of Freedom" in Google Maps].

Juneteenth marks the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation. While the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, we understand that historically and currently with COVID-19 and the racial uprisings of 2020 that we still have a long way to go when it comes to facing racism, health disparities, and medical mistrust.

To that end, we along with Roots 101, Frazier Museum, and Louisville Metro have worked for several years on the (Un)Known Project, which will use public art installations and experiences to support Louisville – the 4th most segregated city in America – in its current efforts in dealing with racism and inequity. Juneteenth will mark the unveiling of the first (Un)Known Project Public Art Installation on the banks of the Ohio River.

For more information visit: <https://www.ideasxlab.com/unknown>

JUNETEENTH: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE.

COMMUNITY WALK & (UN)KNOWN PROJECT SITE DEDICATION & PUBLIC ART UNVEILING

SATURDAY, JUNE 19 LOUISVILLE, KY
EVENT SCHEDULE

NOON

Poetry & Performances at Roots 101 followed by A Journey In Our Footprints Walk led by River City Drum Corps: Roots 101 African American Museum - 124 N 1st St. A Journey in Our Footprints Walk to (Un)Known Project site will begin around 12:45pm [0.9 mile walk with stops along the way]

1:30PM

(Un)Known Project Site Dedication and "On the Banks of Freedom" Public Art Unveiling - between 9th and 10th on the Louisville Waterfront. [Free parking lot at end of 10th St adjacent to site]. Search "On the Banks of Freedom" in Google maps for exact location.

FREE, ACCESSIBLE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLES!

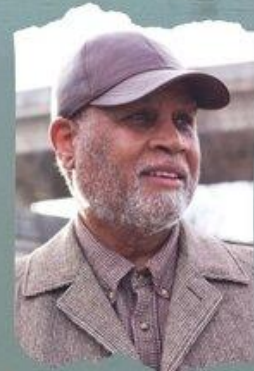


[UNKNOWNPROJECTKY.COM](https://www.unknownprojectky.com)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE



HANNAH DRAKE OF IDEAS XLAB



ARTIST WILLIAM M. DUFFY



LAMONT COLLINS OF ROOTS 101



YOUNG PRODIGYS

CHET Faculty Pen Op-Ed on 40th Anniversary of HIV/AIDS Epidemic

CHET Core Faculty member Dr. Rafael E. Pérez-Figueroa and CHET Faculty Affiliate Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli recently published an op-ed in the *Lexington Herald Leader* entitled, "Forty years after AIDS appeared, it's still an epidemic of silence, neglect and death."



"June 2021 marks 40 years since the first cases of AIDS were reported in the U.S., a disease caused by the HIV virus. While we are witnessing an extraordinary response to the COVID-19 crisis, the response to HIV/AIDS continues to be characterized by silence, neglect, and inadequate outcomes. The intersection of homophobia, racism, stigma, and social marginalization makes HIV/AIDS the story of a metaphor—a metaphor that underscores suffering, injustice, and death, but also one that has catalyzed community organizing and human rights advancements. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is like a tortuous light that invites us to work together for a greater good while revealing the reality of the world surrounding us."

You can read the full article here: <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article252171118.html>

CHET Social Media Accounts

If you haven't already, please Like and follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UKYCHET>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CHET_UKY

We frequently post information about important health equity topics, upcoming events, and the outstanding work of our many CHET scholars.

If you have anything you would like us to promote on our social media pages, please reach out to us at chet@uky.edu.

Biostatistics and Research Design Core

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GlFBA9n9aPOFlb

CHET Student and Trainee Listserv

Please encourage your students and trainees to join our listserv here: bit.ly/joinchet